

U.S.S.N.: 10/690,146
Reply to Office Action dated April 15, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 10541-1848

II. Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 and 6-9 have been amended and claim 5 has been cancelled. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-16 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and further examination of claims 1-4 and 6-16 in light of the following arguments is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter in claims 5 and 11-16.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to because the lead line from reference numeral 58 in Figure 1 does not clearly identify the "bell housing inner surface". Accordingly, the Applicants have submitted a replacement sheet including amended Figure 1, wherein the lead line for reference numeral 58 has been re-routed to more clearly indicate the bell housing inner surface. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner accept amended Figure 1 and reconsider and withdraw this objection to the Drawings.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 and 10 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,203,441 issued to Iarrera (Iarerra).

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5 and have cancelled claim 5. In light of the indication by the Examiner of allowable

U.S.S.N.: 10/690,146
Reply to Office Action dated April 15, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 10541-1848

subject matter in claim 5, the Applicants assert that claim 1 as amended is allowable over Iarrera. The Applicants further assert that claims 2-4 and 10 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 USC §102(b).

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent no. 5,536,075 issued to Bertetti (Bertetti075) in view of United States Patent no. 5,782,565 issued to Bertetti (Bertetti565). Further, the Examiner rejected Claim 10 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertetti075 and Bertetti565 in view of United States Patent no. 6,668,888 issued to Beasley et al. (Beasley).

The Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5 and have cancelled claim 5. In light of the indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter in claim 5, the Applicants assert that claim 1 as amended is allowable over Iarrera. The Applicants further assert that claims 2-4 and 10 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 USC §103(a).

U.S.S.N.: 10/690,146
Reply to Office Action dated April 15, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 10541-1848

Conclusion

The Applicants assert that pending Claims 1-4, and 6-16 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5-3-2004 DLT
5-3-2004

By: [Signature]
Dan L. Thompson
Registration No. 54,490
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
Telephone: (734) 302-6000